

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 CEA-02

CIEP-02 STR-08 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 INT-08 AGR-20 ARA-16 RSR-01 /197 W

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R 101500Z JUL 73

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 222

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, NI

SUBJECT: OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON RELATIONS WITH EEC

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN OPENING SESSION OF OAU MEETING ON AFRICAN RELATIONS WITH EEC, BOTH GENERAL GOWON AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAU EHINGAKI URGED OAU MEMBERS TO ADOPT UNITED STANCE PRIOR TO JULY 25-26 BRUSSELS NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC. EHINGAKI EXPLICITLY CONDEMNED "REVERSE PREFERENCES," DONOR ADMINISTRATION OF DEVELOPMENT AID, AND "RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT" PROVISIONS. GOWON AVOIDED DIRECT REFERENCE TO REVERSE PREFERENCE ISSUE, BUT NIGERIAN NEGOTIATORS AT CURRENT MEETING ARE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE THEIR ADAMANT OPPOSITION TO REVERSE PREFERENCES WHICH THEY VIEW AS OBSTACLE TO INCREASED INTRA-AFRICAN COOPERATION. END SUMMARY.

2. THREE-DAY OAU MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON RELATIONS WITH THE EEC BEGAN IN LAGOS ON JULY 9. DIPLOMATIC CORPS INVITED TO INITIAL MEETING WITH PUBLIC INTRODUCTORY ADDRESSES BY GENERAL GOWON AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAU, NZO EKANGSKI, BUT SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS IN CLOSED SESSION.

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3. IN OPENING ADDRESS GENERAL GOWON EXHORTED AFRICANS TO ADOPT UNIFIED APPROACH PRIOR TO JULY BRUSSELE MEETING, BUT AVOIDED MAKING ANY EXPLICIT PUBLIC STATEMENT ON "REVERSE PREFERENCE" ISSUE. GOWON STRESSED NEED FOR AFRICAN RELATIONSHIP WITH EEC ON BASIS OF "EQUALITY, SOVEREIGNTY, AND MUTUAL INTEREST," BUT STATED THAT NIGERIA WOULD NOT EXPECT HER BROTHERS TO "COMMIT ECONOMIC SUICIDE IN FACE OF KNOWN REALITIES." (SEE SEPTEL FOR TEXT.)

4. EHINGAKI'S ADDRESS MORE STRONGLY WORKED. TEXT NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT AS REPORTED LOCAL PRESS, HE STRESSED THAT AFRICA, "HAVING THE LARGEST PROPORTION OF THE WORLD'S UNTAPPED NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSTITUTING THE GREATEST RESERVOIR OF RAW MATERIALS NEEDED BY THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, CANNOT BE DEFENSIVE IN BARGAINING WITH EUROPE OR WITH ANY OTHER WORLD ECONOMIC REGION." "ANY ATTEMPT TO MAKE US AN APPENDAGE OF EUROPE, TO EAT THE CRUMBS WHICH FALL FROM THE MASTER'S TABLE, SHALL REVOLT US, SHALL HARDEN US, AND SHALL EXPLODE AND ANIHILATE THE EXISTING FRAGILE RELATIONSHIP BORN OF THE PAINFUL COLONIAL TIES OF EXPLOITATION, WHICH WE ARE NOW TRYING TO TRANSFORM TO A MORE MEANINGFUL AND DURABLE FORM OF COOPERATION BASED ON SAME ELEMENTS OF TRUST, CONFIDENCE, AND MUTUAL RESPECT." AFRICA WOULD ONLY HAVE ITSELF TO BLAME FOR FAILURE THROUGH "NOT BEING UNITED (AND) BY NOT ASKING FOR MAXIMUM ADVANTAGES."

5. EHINGAKI PROPOSED A TEN-POINT PROGRAM TO FORM PLATFORM FOR AFRICAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH EEC LATER THIS MONTH. AMONG MAIN PROPOSALS WERE THAT UPCOMING EEC NEGOTIATIONS "SHOULD NOT HAVE AS A BASIS ANY OF THE EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS WITH SPECIFIC GROUPS OR INDIVIDUAL STATES IN AFRICA;" AND THAT AFRICA SHOULD STRIVE FOR A "COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT," BUT AN AGREEMENT "CONCLUDED INDEPENDENTLY OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENT KNOWN AS GATT, "MANY CLAUSES OF WHICH AFRICA IS PRESENTLY CONTESTING." AFRICA, HE SAID, WILL NOT OFFER RECIPROCAL PREFERENCES OR ESTABLISH A FREE TRADE AREA WITH EUROPE FOR PURPOSE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF JUSTIFYING HER FOR ACCEPTANCE OF EUROPEAN PREFERENTIAL TARIFFS." ADVANTAGES OFFERED BY THE EEC TO AFRICA ARE TO BE JUSTIFIED IN THE "INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATION WHICH THE ADVANCED COUNTRIES HAVE TOWARD THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES." "THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT FUND (SHOULD BE) ON A PARITY BASIS BETWEEN AFRICA AND EUROPE," EHINGAKI STRESSED, AND SHOULD ALSO BE ADMINISTERED SO AS TO GIVE "PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT TO THE MOST

UNDER-DEVELOPED OR HANDICAPPED STATES." TO ENCOURAGE INTER-AFRICAN COOPERATION, PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INTER-STATE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS, HE NOTED. E KINGAKI ALSO SUGGESTED PRICE SUPPORT AGREEMENTS FOR AFRICAN RAW MATERIALS SUCH AS SUGAR, THAT GUARANTEES FOR EUROPEAN INVESTMENT IN AFRICA SHOULD BE ASSUMED BY THE EEC RATHER THAN INVESTMENT-RECIPIENT NATION, AND THAT EEC PRINCIPLES ON RIGHT OF ESTABLISHMENT, MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL, AND RULES OF ORIGIN BE "SERIOUSLY REVIEWED."

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GOWON'S ADDRESS MORE MODERATE IN TONE AND OMITTED DIRECT REFERENCE TO TROUBLESOME REVERSE PREFERENCE ISSUE, NIGERIAN ANTIPATHY TO REVERSE PREFERENCES IS STRONG. FMG MAY NOT EXPECT POORER AFRICAN ASSOCIABLES TO "COMMIT SUICIDE" IN TERMS OF FOREGONE FED AID AND BUDGETARY SUPPORT, BUT WORKING GROUPS IN CURRENT OAU MEETING WILL CERTAINLY PROVIDE FORUM FOR NIGERIAN ANTI-REVERSE PREFERENCE ZEALOTS TO TAKE MORE SHOTS AT REVERSE PREFERENCE OPTION. ECHOS OF TRADE COMMISSIONER BRIGGS VEHEMENT CONDEMNATION OF YAOUNDE TERMS (LAGOS 1372) AT FEBRUARY MEETING OF COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLES MAY BE HEARD AGAIN, AND SINCE BRIGGS'S SPEECH NIGERIAN ANIMUS TOWARD REVERSE PREFERENCES HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY SIGNS OF FALTERING EEC INSISTENCE ON PREFERENCES AND FURTHER BOLSTERED BY STRONG USG STANCE ON DISCRIMINATORY TRADING PACTS (E.G., PRESIDENT'S ECONOMIC STATEMENT TO CONGRESS AND PENALTIES CONTAINED IN VOYSED TRADE LEGISLATION FOR LDCS GRANTING DISCRIMINATORY PREFERENCES TO DCs). IN SPITE NIGERIA'S SYMPATHY FOR THE PLIGHT OF POORER ASSOCIABLES WHO MAY WISH TO ACCEPT REVERSE PREFERENCES IF THAT A SINE QUANON OF EEC ASSOCIATION, SHE WILL NOT MISS OPPORTUNITY TO URGE UNITED AFRICA ASSULT ON REVERSE PREFERENCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT USELS. THIS MAY BE HER LAST CHANCE.

7. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO REPEAT THIS MESSAGE TO OTHER EUROPEAN, AFRICAN, AND CARIBBEAN ADDRESSEES.
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